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SUBJECT: DRC ELECTIONS: MORE THAN 11,000 CANDIDATES FOR
PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURES

REF: KINSHASA 826

¶1. (U) The Independent Electoral Commission (CEI) has released figures showing that 11,044 candidates registered to run for 632 available seats in the DRC's 26 provincial legislatures. (Note: More than 9,700 candidates registered for the 500 National Assembly seats. End note.) According to CEI President Abbe Apollinaire Malu Malu, 20,174 potential candidates had originally requested the paperwork to file their candidacies. After granting a three-day extension (reftel), the CEI closed the provincial registration period May 26. According to Malu Malu, of the 11,044 candidates, 605 registered as independent candidates, and 1,094 were women. Malu Malu said May 30 the CEI plans to release a provisional list of provincial candidates June 3.

¶2. (U) Following the publication of the provisional candidates list, political parties will have the opportunity to examine the list and bring any challenges to it before the DRC's appellate courts. According to the latest CEI electoral calendar, the courts are expected to issue their rulings by June 23, after which the CEI will publish a final list of candidates. Malu Malu previously said he intends to announce the date for provincial elections once this step is complete. In a May 30 meeting, the CEI President said he did not know if the CEI would be able to set the date for the next round of elections (which includes provincial as well as second-round presidential balloting) by that time, citing the delay in the provincial registration process and other logistical hurdles.

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